

MAR 21 2005

Practitioner's Docket No.: 791_181

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Akira MATSUMOTO and Masashi FUKUYAMA

Ser. No.: 10/036,325

Group Art Unit: 1772

Filed: December 26, 2001

Examiner: Catherine A. Simone

Confirmation No.: 3228

For: RIBBONED POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING FIBER AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR, AND POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING OPTICAL FIBER ARRAY USING THE SAME

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE
TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Catherine A. Simone at the Patent and Trademark Office on March 21, 2005 at (703) 872-9306.

Tara L. Preston
Tara L. Preston

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

The following remarks are in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 21, 2004. Claims 2-6, 20 and 21 are pending herein.

1. Claims 2 and 21 were rejected under §102(b) over Komoto et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Pending independent claim 21 recites, among other things, that a ribbon portion having a length of 2 to 300 mm and surrounding polarization-maintaining fibers includes a material that can be stripped to expose the polarization-maintaining fibers. This claimed feature is not disclosed or suggested in Komoto.

First, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's statement that the cured adhesives in Komoto can be stripped is a conclusion that is not supported in Komoto. Komoto fails to show that the cured adhesive retaining the capillary tube is strippable.